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Letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the statement made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) that local elections in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, would be held on 28 October 2000.

The holding of the local elections in Kosovo and Metohija is contrary to the essential provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, especially those relative to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and amounts to the policy of fait accompli and the support of ethnic Albanian separatism and terrorism. It is not contributive to achieving a peaceful political solution and could lead to the destabilization not only of Kosovo and Metohija but of the entire region. In bringing these facts to the attention of the Security Council on a number of occasions, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has constantly emphasized that voter registration and elections in Kosovo and Metohija can be carried out only if necessary conditions are established and implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) is secured and essentially achieved.

The fallacy of such policy has been pointed out also by some other important international actors, including some permanent members of the Security Council. Illustrative in that regard is the recent statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the effect that a forced holding of elections would undermine all efforts to build a truly democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo and Metohija, and that the question of holding elections is directly related to the problems of maintaining regional peace and security and should therefore be solved not by the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo but by the Security Council.

In bringing the question of the holding of local elections in Kosovo and Metohija to the attention of the Security Council, I would like to reiterate the Yugoslav position presented on a number of occasions in the past. The elections can be held only with the participation of the Yugoslav authorities in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and upon creation of these conditions: full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999); establishment of a secure environment for all residents at Kosovo and Metohija; deportation of all foreign nationals that have entered Kosovo and

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Metohija illegally; and the reaching of agreement on a political solution and the setting up of government structures for which elections will be held.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.